Lockheed Martin's Spoken-Language-Understanding Technology To Aid Warfighters And First Responders

Lockheed Martin today announced the development of the Wearable Intelligent Reporting Environment (WIRE), a spoken-language-understanding system for military mobile and dismounted operations and potentially for first responders.

Patrolling warfighters typically report items of interest via radio or they rely on memory upon return to base. In some instances, radio is ill suited to effectively transmit certain types of reports. And relying on memory for details -- often hours after return to base -- may introduce error into the planning and intelligence-gathering processes. Even using the emerging digital notebook requires hands on and eyes down attention, which may jeopardize safety and mission success.

WIRE is a solution that uses reliable, on-demand, spoken-language-understanding technology that lets warfighters speak their observations while keeping their hands free and eyes up. WIRE is not a recording device, but an intelligent system that actually listens, understands the context of language, and intuitively knows how to parse the observation into a variety of reports, such as the Size Activity Location Unit Time and Equipment (SALUTE) report. Collecting and disseminating information to key personnel and analysts becomes dramatically quicker and safer.

Developed by Lockheed Martin Advanced Technology Laboratories (ATL), WIRE is embedded in a lightweight, wearable computer with a state-of-the-art microphone for outdoor, high-noise environments. The warfighter can transmit information in real-time over Wi-Fi or military radio or download it on return to base.

"Users can use WIRE's speech-based interfaces as an alternative to or with traditional graphical user interfaces to provide added flexibility and greater usability and safety," said Celeste Corrado, program manager. "GPS, time, and camera are also integrated into WIRE to automate and supplement information collection."

WIRE domains include reporting environments for Improvised Explosive Device and Border Control. Corrado said that WIRE could also be used by other federal agencies, such as Federal Emergency Management Agency and local first responders -- like police departments and fire and rescue units.

Other successful applications of ATL's spoken-language-understanding technology include shipboard operations aboard Sea Shadow IX-529, U.S. Marine Corps logistics for 24-hour access to supply requisition, and unmanned autonomous vehicles.

Headquartered in Bethesda, Md., Lockheed Martin employs about 140,000 people worldwide and is principally engaged in the research, design, development, manufacture, integration and sustainment of advanced technology systems, products and services.

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